CALPEEK

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22nd CD SPECIAL: LOIS CAPPS IS LEADING, WHILE BORDONARO & FIRESTONE LOCKED IN TIGHT RACE

Editor's note: With another week remaining until the Jan. 13th special election to fill out the remaining year of the late Walter Capps' first term in office, insiders expect Capps' widow Lois(D) to get the most votes, but it's doubtful she'll go over the 50% mark to avoid a runoff. Most of the attention in the 22nd CD is focused upon the two leading GOP candidates: moderate Assemblyman Brooks Firestone of Santa Barbara and conservative Assemblyman Tom Bordonaro of San Luis Obispo. Here's our update and analysis...

...The name of the game in this special is MONEY. Firestone and Capps have it, Bordonaro doesn't. At least not so far, but as we head into the final week of this special election, Bordonaro's campaign is hoping that the money will start to flow so that he can compete with Firestone & Capps on TV. Firestone and Capps have been on TV for a number of weeks, while cash-strapped Bordonaro has had to use radio. All three rivals have been in the mail. FYI: cost of tv time in the Santa Barbara market is about $40 per point vs. $600 in the L.A. media market...

...Firestone will outspend Bordonaro by a *3-or-4 to 1 margin*. And making things even more difficult for Bordonaro, GOP House Speaker Newt Gingrich is trying to cut off the money supply from DC for the San Luis Obispo lawmaker. Yes, Gingrich is backing Firestone, much to the displeasure of a number of conservative Calif. House members --- notably John Doolittle of Roseville...

...With some expecting a turnout between **18-23%**, where do the 3 frontrunners stand? According to some internal polling data obtained by **Calpeek**, Capps is in the mid-to-low **40%** range, while Firestone & Bordonaro are both in the low **20%** range. The edge on the GOP side belongs to Firestone. There are three other candidates in this race...

...Can Bordonaro still win the primary? If the independent expenditure committees deliver as promised, perhaps. And one can never dismiss the NRA in an election such as this one. The NRA has a score to settle with Firestone...

...FYI: Paul Jacob's *U.S. Term Limits* group has been on radio bashing Bordonaro because he does not support the group's initiative which will face Calif. voters June 2nd. Bordonaro is really pissed and issued a news release blasting Jacob as a *special interest, DC beltway gadfly*. Is the ad having an impact?? Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S 1998 FEARLESS FORECAST AND PREDICTIONS.

Editor's note: As **Calpeek** begins its **20th** year of publication, here is another one of your favorite columns. And remember: *political pundits who live by the crystal ball often eat glass...*

♦ ***Prediction*** - Here's an easy one: U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein will run for governor in '98...

♦ ***Mr. Checchi's Dilemma*** - In order to win the Demo primary against DiFi, businessman Al Checchi must win GOP crossover votes. Prediction: look for Checchi to unload on AG Dan Lungren(R) very soon...

♦ ***Hot Issues for Campaign '98*** - Education reform and guns. For the June 2nd ballot, huge bucks will be spent for and against CRI, the union bashing measure backed by Calif. Gov. Pete Wilson(R)...

♦ ***Hot Topic That Won't Go Away*** - GOP bashing of Hispanics and other new immigrant voters...

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♦ ***New Issue of '98 and Beyond*** - Private construction and operation of prisons in Calif...

♦ ***Globalists* Vs *Nationalists*** - If you side with President Bill Clinton and many Republicans, then you're a *globalist*. If you side with House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt(D) and GOPers such as Pat Buchanan, then you're a *nationalist*...

♦ ***Dornan Watch*** - To the delight of Demos, former U.S. Rep. Bob Dornan(R), Orange Co.'s *congressman in exile*, will run for his old 46th CD seat in '98 and he'll win the GOP primary...

♦ ***Chief Justice Mr. Lucky*** - Now that backers of an initiative to restore *parental consent* have pulled the plug on their initiative for '98, CA Supreme Court Chief Justice Ron George can breathe a little easier...

♦ ***Prediction*** - Don't hold your breath for an NFL team to ever play in the old or *New* L.A. Coliseum again. It just won't happen...

BATTLES ARE UNDERWAY TO FIND REPLACEMENTS FOR SENATOR LOCKYER & SPEAKER BUSTAMANTE.

Editor's note: The immediate fallout from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeal's decision upholding Calif.'s ***Term Limit Law*** is that political observers are trying to figure out who will eventually replace Senate President Pro Tem Bill Lockyer and Assembly Speaker Cruz Bustamante. Here's our brief update & analysis...

...Although most of the political maneuvering involves the Demos, the only legislative leader in the so-called *Big 4* who remains in a safe position is Assembly GOP Leader Bill Leonard. Senate GOP Leader Rob Hurtt has been on *thin ice* for some time and his *diminished role* in last year's budget debate and other legislative matters didn't help. Likely replacement: either Ross Johnson of Orange County or Jim Brulte of Rancho Cucamonga...

...But it's the Demo battles where most of the attention is focused. **State Senate first**. Lockyer has announced that he'll step down soon as PPT and will run for AG in '98. There are 5-6 Demo senators who are eyeing the PPT's post. **Calpeek** sources say the two leading contenders are John Burton of S.F. and Patrick Johnston of Stockton. Other contenders include: Jim Costa of Frenso, Richard Polanco of L.A. and Jack O'Connell of Santa Barbara. Sources say Lockyer is backing Johnston --- and this is putting a very serious strain on Lockyer's long term friendship with Burton. Burton is a better fundraiser than Johnston, but he carries *baggage*. What may decide the Demo PPT battle is who is selected as Majority Leader. Many insiders think it has to be a *woman from Southern Calif.* Likely contenders: Dede Alpert & Hilda Solis...

...Now to the **State Assembly**. Unlike Lockyer, Bustamante would like to hold onto his power base for as long as possible. He's already indicated that he'll run for Lt. Governor in '98. But our sources say the Demo Caucus wants a quick transition like their counterparts in the upper house. There are about 5-6 Demos who would like to replace Bustamante. The two frontrunners are Majority Leader Antonio Villaraigosa and Rules Cmt. Chair Don Perata. Both are excellent fundraisers, but Perata is the one with the keener political insights. Other contenders include: Carole Migden, Sheila Kuehl, Fred Keeley --- or perhaps even Villaraigosa's best friend, Bob Hertzberg, chair of the Public Safety Cmt. Hertzberg might emerge as a strong and widely acceptable compromise candidate if neither Villaraigosa nor Perata have the votes. He's politically savvy and has that driving ambition. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: SUSAN GOLDING AND MATT FONG REORGANIZE THEIR U.S. SENATE ELECTION TEAMS.

Editor's note: Lots of reshuffling going on in the rival GOP camps of U.S. Senate hopefuls Susan Golding and Matt Fong. Here's a brief update & analysis...

...Turns out that **Dec. 16th** was a key date for both Fong and Golding. That's the day Fong announced that Sacto-based Russo Marsh + Raper would take over as lead consultants from McNally Temple & Assoc., who resigned the Fong campaign on Nov. 24th. In **Calpeek's** final issue of '97, our sources predicted that Russo Marsh + Raper, along with consultant Wayne Johnson of Sacto, had the inside track on the Fong campaign. After RMR were awarded the campaign, Johnson had second thoughts and decided he too would resign, which he did...

...As for Golding, she's got big problems. Six days after the *Sacto BEE* ran columnist Dan Walters' Dec.

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10th story ("Golding's Drive Going Nowhere"), Brian Kraft resigned. He had been with the campaign since early October. Kraft is much better known as a fund-raiser than as a daily manager, so his appointment as Golding's day-to-day mgr. raised some eyebrows. On the other hand, money has been and continues to be a key problem for Golding - so perhaps naming Kraft had merit. Nevertheless, Kraft is the second key Golding operative to recently resign from the campaign. In early December, Tom Shepard of Campaign Strategies resigned...

...FYI: Golding may not be only the GOP woman in the U.S. Senate race. Over the holidays, **Calpeek** ran into Noel Irwin Hentschel, a very successful So. Calif. businesswoman whose name has popped up as a possible U.S. Senate candidate. Hentschel told **Calpeek** she is looking seriously at this race. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: HUGE BATTLE TAKING SHAPE OVER ANTI-LABOR UNION INITIATIVE SUPPORTED BY GOP.
Editor's note: The national media is just now beginning to focus on this proposal called the Campaign Reform Initiative(CRI), bankrolled by some very conservative Republicans. Here's our brief update & analysis...

...The initiative, which turned in around 750,000 signatures to registrars in late November, requires unions to get written approval from members before dues are used for political purposes. Those opposing this measure claim the effort to blunt union spending in political campaigns is a *nationwide* effort, with initiatives in the works not only in Calif., but 5-8 other states as well. Grover Norquist of *Americans for Tax Reform*, is one of the key backers. Norquist was quoted in David Broder's Nov. 13th column as saying his group hopes to raise $10 million to fund these campaigns...

...Fighting the CRI effort is *Californians to Protect Employee Rights*. Sacto-based Gale Kaufman is the lead consultant. Demo pollsters Mark Mellman and David Binder are on the NO team as well. Just about every major union in Calif. is part of this coalition, including: CTA, Professional Firefighters, State Council SEIU, AFSCME, Calif. Labor Federation and UFCW, to name but a few. All of these groups are big contributors to Demo campaigns. The only group which is noted for giving large contributions to Republican candidates, CCPOA (Calif. Correctional Peace Officers Assn.) also is opposed and sources say CCPOA leader Don Novey has expressed his displeasure with this initiative directly to Calif. Gov. Pete Wilson, a key CRI supporter...

...If backers were to qualify this measure for the June 2nd ballot (which seems likely) - and it won - it would become law on **July 1st** and that could mean the member approval forms might not be ready in time for unions to participate in the November 1998 general election like they have in the past, with million dollar warchests...

FYI: The most current survey by pollster Mervin Field (taken Nov. 12-23, 527 Calif. adults, of which 373 were registered voters) shows strong support for CRI: **22%** favor, **11%** opposed and 3% undecided, of the 36% who had heard or read about this proposal. When an abstract of the initiative is read to the full sample, an overwhelming majority support CRI: **72%** vs. **22%**. Even among Demos, CRI holds a fairly hefty lead: **66%** vs. **29%**, with 5% undecided. And among UNION members it's **70%** in favor vs. **26%** opposed, with 4% undecided. Stay tuned...

CALIF. INITIATIVE UPDATE: RON UNZ'S BILINGUAL EDUCATION PLAN QUALIFIES FOR JUNE '98 BALLOT.
Editor's note: As it stands now, Calif. voters will see **4** measures on the June 2nd ballot placed there by the Legislature and another **4** measures in the form of initiatives, with a **5th** initiative (see story on CRI) likely to qualify before the deadline. So we're looking at a total of **9 ballot measures** for June 2nd. Here's our initiative update, with some *new polling data* from Mervin Field (696 registered voters, Nov. 12-23)...

☒ ***The Unz Initiative*** - The new Field Poll shows very solid support for the Unz measure to do away with the current system of bilingual education: **69%** support vs. **24%** against, with 7% undecided. Among Latino voters, the Unz initiative leads by a margin of **66%** vs. **30%**. But opposition, which goes under the banner of *Citizens for an Educated America: No on Unz* is picking up lots of support from the educational establishment. UTLA, the LAUSD Board of Education, as well as the CA School Board Assn., are now on record against this measure. It's also been reported

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that CRP Chair Michael Schroeder is opposed. FYI: also part of the opposition campaign team is S.F.-based pollster David Binder. Consultant Richie Ross is the lead consultant and Kelly Hayes-Raitt handles daily mgt...

☒ ***"95-5" Initiative Leading*** - According to the latest Field Poll, a June '98 initiative to prohibit school districts from spending more than 5% on administrative services is leading by a margin of **54%** yes vs. **29%** no, with **17%** undecided...

☒ ***Congressional Term Limits*** - An advisory measure appearing on the June 2nd ballot to limit U.S. Senators to **2** terms and House members to **3** terms is leading in the latest Field Poll: **64%** approve vs. **31%** oppose, with **5%** no opinion. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.
Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

■ ***Pot King vs. Lungren*** - A key backer of Prop. 215, Cannabis Cultivators Club owner Dennis Peron, says he'll run for governor against AG Dan Lungren as a GOP candidate. Does Peron have any chance? None, zip, zero. But he'll give good sound bite...

■ ***Term Limits Upheld*** - Calif.'s Term Limits Law is once again the law of the State, thanks to a 9-2 vote of a special panel of judges from the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeal, who *reversed* an earlier 2-1 decision. A real poke in the eye to Federal Judge Stephen Reinhardt, whose majority opinion said that Prop. 140 should be overturned because "the voters didn't know what they were doing." Really!!! Actually Reinhardt's fate was sealed when Judges Michael Hawkins and Andrew Kleinfeld were appointed to this panel. To say that Kleinfeld/Hawkins aren't on friendly terms with Reinhardt is an understatement. This was *judicial payback*, according to our sources...

■ ***46th CD Voter Fraud Probe Ends*** - An Orange Co. Grand Jury investigation into allegations whether there was a planned effort to register non-citizen voters has been ended ***without*** any indictments. Evidence was presented that two staffers from *Hermandad Mexicana Nacional* signed up 632 people who were not eligible to vote because they had not been sworn in as U.S. Citizens at the time of registration. The O.C. Grand Jury's failure to indict doesn't end this brouhaha between former GOP Congressman Bob Dornan and U.S. Rep. Loretta Sanchez(D). And CA Sec. of State Bill Jones(R) says the O.C. Grand Jury's decision was ***unacceptable***. The big unanswered question: where does this leave O.C. DA Mike Capizzi, a GOP candidate for AG? Up the river with no paddle? Perhaps...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.
Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● Some sad notes: over the holidays while **Calpeek** was on vacation, the following individuals passed away: former U.S. Rep. John Moss(D-Sacto), who wrote the Freedom of Information Act; Sacto Councilman Sam Pannell; and recently retired KFWB Radio news anchor Vince Campagna. R.I.P...

● Kenneth C. Burt has been named political director for the CA Federation of Teachers. The Harvard grad is a former aide to Assembly Speaker Willie Brown...

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